

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 3, 9 to 16 and 18 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryson et al. (US 3,733,947) in view of Belec et al. (US 5,374,044).

Claim 8 was objected to, but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended

Claims 8, 21 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following is respectfully requested

Election / Restrictions

Claims 21 and 22 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 21 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice.

Reinstatement of claim 17, which depends from allowable claim 1, is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 to 3, 9 to 16 and 18 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryson et al. (US 3,733,947) in view of Belec et al. (US 5,374,044).

The limitations of allowable claim 8, which details the backwards motion of the table, have been incorporated into claim 1. With respect to method claim 18, the reciprocating motion of the table which includes a backwards motion (described by the forward and return strokes for example in [0124] to [0140]) has now been claimed to likewise place claim 18 in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1 to 3, 9 to 16 and 18 to 20 is respectfully requested.

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Amdt. dated April 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2005

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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